

U.S. BLM - Coos Bay District  
Coos County Natural Gas Pipeline Final EIS  
Project Coordinator Bob Gunther  
1300 Airport Lane  
North Bend, OR 97459

January 8, 2003

COOS BAY DIST OFFICE

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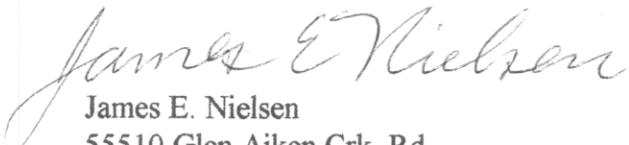
Dear Bob:

I wanted to let you know that I have reviewed this final EIS and am in full agreement with your agencies selection of the proposed action - the Coos Bay Wagon Road route. The following favorable effects of the proposed action are my reasons for this position:

- It avoids conflicts with existing fiber optics cables already laid in or adjacent to Hwy 42. The recent cutting of one of these fiber optic cables illustrates the importance of this attribute.
- It avoids sensitive wildlife areas.
- It avoids 7 miles of difficult construction zones.
- It avoids the significant expense and inconvenience of traffic delays on Hwy 42.
- It has negligible cumulative effects on wildlife.
- From my own experience, paving of portions of the CBWR is a significant advantage. It improves conditions for biking on this route.
- Replacing 3 culverts on the CBWR to improve fish passage is a very important advantage.
- The proposed action is about 25 miles shorter and about \$20 million less expensive than the Hwy 42 alternative.
- It is less vulnerable to third party dig-in damage. Again, the importance of this was illustrated by the recent cutting of a fiber optic cable on Hwy 42.
- It impacts far fewer streams which is important for fisheries habitat.

My support of for this project is more than just academic. I have recently discovered that the primary lateral to Coquille, Myrtle Point and Bandon will come across my tree farm. I told commissioner John Griffith that I felt proud to be able to support the project in this manner. I voted for it and feel it is very important to the economic future of our community.

Sincerely,



James E. Nielsen  
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Coquille, OR 97423